

Serial Number 08/933,822

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Withdrawn) A yarn comprising

- a. at least one bundle of fiber, said bundle being ring spun or wrap spun with
- b. a wrapping fiber comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point range of about 105° to 190°C under ambient humidity conditions, said yarn comprising a total of 0.1 to 12 weight percent binder material.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 comprising 0.25 to 10 weight percent binder material.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 comprising 0.5 to 8 weight percent binder material.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fiber is staple fibers.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fibers is a sliver.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fibers is continuous filaments.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the wrapping fiber comprises a heat-activated binder fiber.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 7 wherein said binder fiber is a copolyamide.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 8 wherein said binder fiber is a copolyamide of the nylon 6/nylon 6,6 type.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fiber is nylon 6.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fiber is staple fibers wrap spun with the wrapping fiber, and the wrapping fiber forms substantially all of the heat-activated binder material.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 11 wherein the staple fibers are selected from the group consisting of nylon 6 and nylon 6-6, and wherein the heat-activated binder material is a copolyamide having a melting point range of 165° to 190°C under ambient humidity conditions.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) An article made from the yarn of claim 1.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A tufted article made from the yarn of claim 1.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A carpet including the yarn of claim 1 as a face yarn.

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Claim 16. (Currently amended) A process for producing a yarn suitable for tufting, said process comprising the steps of:

- Sub 1*
- a. forming a bundle consisting essentially of a first base fiber prior to spinning, said first base fiber being selected from the group consisting of polyamides, nylon-6, nylon-6,6, polyesters, polyolefins, cotton, and wool;
 - b. ring spinning or wrap spinning the bundle of fiber with a second fiber to form a yarn, said second fiber being twisted or wrapped uniformly around the bundle of fiber and comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point lower than that of said bundle of fiber, said yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight percent of the binder material;
 - c. heating the yarn sufficiently to melt the binder material; followed by
 - d. cooling the yarn to solidify the binder material.

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Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the bundle of fiber is formed by spinning staple fiber.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) A wrap spun yarn made in accordance with the process of claim 18.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) A yarn made in accordance with the process of claim 16.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the first base fiber is nylon-6 having a melt point range of 215 to 225°C.

Claim 23. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the bundle of a first base fiber is selected from the group consisting of a sliver and a bundle of continuous filaments.

Claim 24. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein said second fiber consists essentially of a blend of a second base fiber and a heat activated binder material having a melting point range of 105° to 190°C under ambient conditions.